Dear Friends,

On January 23, I took time to reflect as I celebrated my seventh anniversary as the Executive Director of the Cincinnati ToolBank. Now, admittedly, I am not known for my tendencies to embrace and celebrate our successes and milestones. This isn't because I don't think they are important, but I suspect it might be because I usually have at least three more BIG ideas for what's next on the horizon for the ToolBank. This year, however, my resolution is to be intentional about taking time to celebrate these moments. Thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, funders, and community supporters, 2018 proved to be the ToolBank’s most expansive and successful year of equipping communities with “tools for change.”

Looking back to my very first ToolBank board meeting, my second day on the job, I’m completely blown away by how far we’ve come in a relatively short period of time. For the first two and a half years, I was the sole employee, supported by our founding directors and volunteers. In 2018, after investing in an additional full-time position (bringing us to 3 strong), we had the largest increase of new member agencies (92) since we opened in 2012! This year I want to pause for a moment to celebrate the outstanding and passionate staff of the ToolBank. What a success!

I think back to each time that we have invested in the organization, whether in people or capital, and how every single time, the impact results can be seen in our Tool Lending Program. In total, the ToolBank was able to equip 211 agencies with more than $1.6M in tools and equipment. I want to say cheers to organizations that are able to say, “yes,” to the 45,111 volunteers and toast to all the projects they completed with ToolBank tools. Thanks to everyone’s hard work, the ToolBank continues to grow and serve our community in ways we never even imagined.

As we look forward to 2019, I would like to reflect on not only the growth of the ToolBank, but the individual impact that our tools are making in our community. As you read on, we would like to point out three special nonprofits that utilized the ToolBank last year: the Kennedy Heights Art Center, the Greater Cincinnati Construction Foundation, and Community Matters. It goes without saying that your support has allowed the ToolBank to help so many nonprofits like these three organizations. We hope that you enjoy their tales of making a difference. This year, I invite you to join me as we celebrate all of the people who have made our dream of becoming an anchor organization in our community, come true.

Thank you for your ongoing support,
Kat Pepmeyer
Executive Director
In 2018, the ToolBank hosted more than 429 volunteers at our facilities or during ToolBank events including Banking on Our Community, Building on Our Community, and Hammers & Ales. The total value of donated volunteer hours was $79,649. Pictured left: Cox Automotive volunteers during their “No Excuses” volunteer day.

Volunteers Donated More Than 3,226 Hours

In 2018, the ToolBank hosted more than 429 volunteers at our facilities or during ToolBank events including Banking on Our Community, Building on Our Community, and Hammers & Ales. The total value of donated volunteer hours was $79,649. Pictured left: Cox Automotive volunteers during their “No Excuses” volunteer day.

Served 211 Unique Nonprofit Organizations

In 2017, the ToolBank served more than 210 nonprofits with tools and equipment they needed to complete projects, including community gardens, critical home repairs, disaster relief, and special events. Pictured left: Wave Pool picking up equipment for their 9x18 Art Festival held in May.

ToolBank Raised $110,000 Through Special Events

In 2018, The Cincinnati ToolBank raised a record $110,000 in financial support for our Hammers & Ales, Banking on Our Community, and Building on Our Community events. The ToolBank thanks our generous funders that helped make these events a success! Pictured left: Bronze-level supporter, Cold Jet and their volunteers at Banking 2018.

Acquired More Than $18,000 In New Tool Inventory

Thanks to generous donations, the ToolBank was able to grow its tool inventory by 43% from 2017. Currently, the ToolBank has more than 235 types of tools available, with a total inventory of more than 9,600 individual tools. Pictured left: Tools donated by Crossroads Church for their annual Go Local event.
**Impact by the Numbers**

Making change one order at a time

---

**Organizational Impact**

- **Arts | Culture | Humanities**
  - 81 Projects | $54,538 Saved

- Community Revitalization
  - 416 Projects | $360,976 Saved

- **Education**
  - 95 Projects | $87,004 Saved

- Environment | Greenspace
  - 234 Projects | $232,721 Saved

- Faith-Based Organizations
  - 797 Projects | $321,701 Saved

- **Housing | Homelessness**
  - 797 Projects | $127,544 Saved

- **Public | Social Benefit**
  - 96 Projects | $153,901 Saved

- Veterans Services
  - 2 Projects | $3,390 Saved

- **Youth | Children**
  - 120 Projects | $168,280 Saved

---

**2018 ToolBank Revenue**

- **Corporate Support**
  - 23% | $70,725

- **Special Events**
  - 35% | $110,000

- **Tool Sponsorships**
  - 2% | $5,000

- **Foundation Support**
  - 22% | $68,350

- **Program Fees**
  - 11% | $35,450

- **Individual Contributions**
  - 8% | $24,795

- **Total Income**
  - $314,320

---
A campaign to provide more tools for change

Last fall, the ToolBank made a call out to its supporters for its inaugural “Be the Change” Campaign, and, boy, did they answer. Thanks to the support of more than 125 donors, the Cincinnati Community ToolBank was able to successfully surpass its fundraising goal of $10,000. In total, $24,795 in individual contributions were raised in 2018, a record for the organization.

As part of the first campaign, the ToolBank also participated in the “Cincinnati Gives” Challenge, presented by Cincinnati Magazine and P&G. The ToolBank landed 11 out of 90 participating organizations. While we did not take home the grand prize for the Cincinnati Gives Challenge, the ToolBank raised $2,495, thanks to the support of nearly 30 donors. The funds raised by the campaign will be used to further the mission of the ToolBank, helping our nonprofit partners like Gorman Heritage Farm.

"Because of the ToolBank, we are able to take on larger projects around the farm. We are now able to equip more volunteers, larger school groups, and corporate volunteers than ever before," says Clair Long, Volunteer Manager at Gorman Heritage Farm. "By borrowing tools from the ToolBank, we have been able to increase our volunteer capacity by 48 percent in just one year," continued Long.

The ToolBank provides pathways to make anything possible. By equipping groups like Gorman Heritage Farm with the tools they need, we empower that helpful spirit, affording all organizations the opportunity to offer up their capable hands and abundant sweat equity. The ToolBank sincerely thanks everyone that contributed to the campaign! Whether it was a gift of $5 or $500, your support means that we can provide even more "tools for change" to our nonprofit partners.

The ToolBank is looking forward to the 2019 “Be the Change Campaign.” Please visit CincinnatiToolBank.org/give/ for more information on how you can support the ToolBank this year!
On June 7, 2018, a fire caused by an electrical problem in Pleasant Ridge, Ohio, destroyed Molly Malone’s Restaurant and Irish Pub, The Coffee Exchange, and five, second-floor apartments located above the businesses. As strong community partners, Molly Malone’s and The Coffee Exchange’s circumstances launched a clamor of comments on a local Facebook page by neighborhood residents regarding what could be done to help those affected by the devastation. Mary Ray, the Vice Board President of Planning for the Kennedy Heights Community Council, stumbled across the pleas from locals. “Everyone in the neighborhood wanted to do something,” noticed Mary. The Center, she thought, was the perfect place to hold a benefit to raise money for restoring the establishments.

On July 1, less than a month after the despairing setback, Mary, with the help of the Pleasant Ridge Community Council (PRCC) and the Pleasant Ridge Business Association (PRBA), facilitated a benefit cleverly dubbed “Rebuild the Ridge.” The fundraiser was held at the Kennedy Heights Art Center. In attendance were local art vendors, musicians, and chefs who were willing to share their talents with the community to help raise money for redevelopment funding. Emily Frank, a Pleasant Ridge resident and local business owner of Share: Cheesebar, volunteered to help facilitate the benefit. “The event made the community, as a whole, feel closer,” said Emily. “It was overwhelming to see the outpour of support from the community and other local businesses.”

The Cincinnati Community ToolBank was vital to the event’s success by providing 100 chairs and 20 tables to create a welcoming and comfortable space for the attendees. To borrow this equipment from the ToolBank cost the Kennedy Heights Art Center just over $100. Had the Center bought these furnishings at retail price; however, the total value would have amounted to $3,655. Given that the Arts Center is a nonprofit organization, it would have been both financially and logistically more difficult to host a successful function without the ToolBank’s services. Mallory Feltz, Director of Exhibitions and Public Art at the Center, stated, “The ToolBank took care of all of our table and chair event needs, and they did so with very little stress.” She added that thanks to the ToolBank, those in attendance were able to sit and enjoy the event, allowing the benefit to raise $22,630 for their beloved community partners.

Molly Malone’s and The Coffee Exchange have each been given half of the event’s earnings. Since receiving the community’s funds, The Coffee Exchange started designing blueprints for their new location. It has not been confirmed that Molly Malone’s will rebuild. If they decide against it, the money raised at the event will be managed by the Pleasant Ridge Development Corporation (PRDC) to assist with the economic redevelopment of the Pleasant Ridge business district.

Through its collaborative efforts, the Kennedy Heights Arts Center and the Cincinnati Community ToolBank have proven that community is not defined by a locality; instead, community is a social and cultural network composed of individuals who use their skills and talents to bind relationships and fulfill needs.

For more information about “Rebuild the Ridge” and the Pleasant Ridge Business Association, check them out on Facebook @PRBiz.
Bringing Tools Into the Classroom

Managed by Allied Construction Industries, The Greater Cincinnati Construction Foundation (GCCF), the Sprit of Construction Foundation School Advocacy Program works with Cincinnati community partners to provide educational programs that promote the construction industry and teach math and science through hands-on tool interaction. Since the Foundation started years ago, a great deal of development has progressed GCCF’s initiatives. Lydia Burns, lead outreach and education advocate for GCCF, has expanded the organization’s initial programs, which now function as a workforce-development model for multiple school districts.

Lydia leads construction-based education programs at eight schools. For one individual, however, her role is wide in scope. This is where Cincinnati Community ToolBank steps in to assist Lydia with her program administration. For instance, Lydia’s engagement with the ToolBank supports her work at Roll Hill School, whose resource coordinator aspired to build a community garden. When he spoke with Lydia about his concerns regarding resource accessibility, she suggested borrowing tools from the ToolBank to help make the project more manageable and affordable.

“The ToolBank removes a huge piece of the puzzle when it comes to performing workforce development,” says Lydia. She explained how contractors often desire to leverage the construction industry by educating children about job opportunities. Unfortunately, schools generally lack the quantity of tools necessary to make such instruction possible. By having access to the ToolBank, Lydia can equip the students with the proper tools for lessons that she teaches at an extremely affordable rate. Thus, the ToolBank’s services simultaneously support the development of future construction leaders, as well as allow the program to expand to more schools.

In addition to borrowing tools for their community garden, Roll Hill has begun utilizing the ToolBank’s equipment for events like honor-roll functions and parent-teacher conferences. Through her programs’ partnerships with the ToolBank, Lydia hopes that she can help eliminate stereotypes about the construction industry, as well as assist children with finding employment in the field. “ToolBank is the partner you need for peace of mind,” affirmed Lydia. “My relationship with the ToolBank allows me to do my work better than anyone else.”

Alex Anderson of Valley Interior Systems assisting students from Roll Hill School with a ToolBank impact driver while constructing garden beds.
Placemaking; Transforming Our Communities

The Sanctuary, a social enterprise run by the nonprofit organization Community Matters, makes the power of placemaking evident. Birthday parties, weddings, and galas are all reasons people come together, and The Sanctuary's accommodations allow such events to be possible. Originally built as St. Michael’s Church in 1847, The Sanctuary is a gift from the Archdiocese to Community Matters after the Church’s closure in the 1990s. Following a series of renovations that began in 2014, The Sanctuary is now a comfortable, picturesque space available for no cost to community members who use it for celebratory purposes. The Sanctuary also supports the city economically, as any funds raised in the space during Community Matters’ events are then used to support their own programs.

To enrich the lives of community members, however, The Sanctuary requires special-events equipment. Since the Cincinnati Community ToolBank opened its doors in 2012, Community Matters has recognized the importance of a partnership with this fellow nonprofit organization. “At The Sanctuary, we believe that your event matters. The ToolBank helps promote this tagline by providing necessary materials to host events,” said Patty Lee, Community Matter’s Director of Development and Communication.

In the seven years The Sanctuary has worked with the ToolBank, they have borrowed a variety of tools and materials for The Sanctuary and beyond. From wheelbarrows and shovels to tables and chairs, all equipment borrowed has assisted Community Matters’ innumerable tasks. Patty joked, “I don’t think there’s a tool we haven’t checked out from the ToolBank. If there is, we should borrow it just for fun!” Patty affirmed that Community Matters will continue using the ToolBank’s services for their project and event needs, particularly with their upcoming affordable housing project. The project is set to break ground during the summer of 2019 in the Lower Price Hill neighborhood where Community Matters resides.
Banking on Our Community

As the very fabric of our community, our region’s banks and accounting firms continue to lead the way, building stronger and healthier communities. In keeping with this philanthropic spirit, the Cincinnati Community ToolBank hosted its 5th annual “Banking on Our Community” on Friday, June 22, 2018, a one-day, hands-on volunteering event, with local banks and their clients.

During Banking 2018 nearly 75 volunteers assisted the Reds Community Fund in preparing for their annual “Community Makeover” event by completing pre-event projects at the Summit Center in Roselawn. The mission and vision of the Reds Community Fund is dedicated to improving the lives of youth by leveraging the tradition of the Cincinnati Reds and the game of baseball.

The ToolBank was able to generate a record $30,500 through this event. We would like to thank our top Sledge Hammer Sponsors of the event: Bank of America, Cold Jet, PNC Bank, US Bank, Modern Office Methods, Western & Southern, First Financial Bank, and Richards Industries. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge our event committee members who helped make this event a success: Doug Adams, Marissa Abernathy, Mark Bruner, Conrad Culbertson, Julie Italiano, Mandi Rassel, Nate Strahm, Paul Stautberg, Nathan Swehla, Ryan Reckman (Chair), and Jerome Wright.

SAVE THE DATE: Banking 2019 will be held on Friday, June 21!

Building on Our Community

The Cincinnati area is rich with dedicated commercial contractors and builders who have continually led in building both infrastructure and stronger communities. To honor and celebrate the construction industry, the ToolBank hosted its 3rd annual “Building on Our Community” on Saturday, September 29, 2018, in partnership with The Dan Beard Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Fifteen of Cincinnati’s largest construction companies, developers, and contractors attended the event and empowered nearly 70 volunteers, donating 260 hours of service to Camp Craig. Volunteers built three new shelters and picnic tables for the camp, as well as repaired the roofs of several outdoor restrooms and much more. This summer, the camping areas that were revitalized with the help of volunteers, will be utilized by thousands of incoming scouts and community members.

The ToolBank was able to raise a record $45,000 thanks to the generous support of our event sponsors. The ToolBank would like to thank all of our participating companies, including Baker Concrete Construction, NorthPoint Development, and Al. Neyer. The ToolBank also thanks our dedicated planning committee members consisting of Stephen Burch, David Okun, John Hausfeld, Jeremy Michael (Chair), Rob Michel, and Michael Schneider (Chair).

SAVE THE DATE: Building 2019 will be held on Saturday, September 28!

Haunted Hammers & Ales

The Cincinnati Community ToolBank would like to thank everyone that attended our 5th annual Haunted Hammers & Ales fundraiser, held on October 27th, 2018, at MadTree Brewing Company. Thanks to event attendees, we were able to raise $36,000 for our Tool Lending program that will provide tools to hundreds of nonprofits in 2019.

The event was Halloween themed, and boy, did guests dress to impress! The guest list included a gaggle of Beanie Babies to Cat in the Hat (with Thing 1 and Thing 2). Brink Brewing Company took home the Brewer’s Philanthropy Award (BPA), which celebrates our local breweries for their civic leadership, collaboration, and community impact.

We would like to thank everyone that made this event possible, including our Sledge Hammer Sponsors Cold Jet and Modern Office Methods as well as the in-kind donors, including The Home Depot, Continental Building Products, Blue Hell Studio, and Nicholas Yust Studios.

This event would not have been possible without our committee, which includes Marissa Abernathy, Jeff Brogan, Stephen Burch, Kristy Conlin, Julie Italiano, Jen Kreger, Matt Morris, Mandi Rassel, Forest Russman, Alex Sale, Zachary Scheid, Nate Strahm, Paul and Shelagh Stautberg, and Tina Taylor.

SAVE THE DATE: H&A 2019 will be held on Saturday, October 26!
Thanks for supporting the Cincinnati Community ToolBank

Grant Support
Bank of America Foundation
Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation
Elsa Heisel Sule Charitable Foundation
Granger Foundation
Ohio Valley Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Agent
P&G Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Perfor Foundation
PNC Bank Foundation
Scripps Howard Foundation
The Home Depot Foundation
Thomas J. Emery Memorial Fund
UPS Foundation

Banking on Our Community
Art’s Rental
Al. Neyer Inc.
ARCO National Construction
Baker Concrete Construction
BHDP Architecture
Danis Building Construction
Design Build Solutions
Dewey’s Pizza
Dugan & Meyers Construction
Ernst Enterprises, Inc.
GORDIAN Design & Construction, Inc.
Grant Thornton LLP
HGC Construction
Lithko Contracting, LLC
McGraw/Kokosing, Inc.
Megen Construction Company
Messer Construction Co.
Miller Valentine Group
NorthPoint Development
Prus Construction
Skanska USA Building
Terracon
Thomas J. Dyer Co./Grote Enterprises
Tru Wall Concrete
Turnbull-Wahlert Construction, Inc

Hammers & Ales
BIRCUS Brewing Co
Blue Hell Studio
Braxton Brewing Company
Brink Brewing Company
Café Mediterranean
Cassady Schiller & Associates, Inc.
Christine Polomsky Photography
Cold Jet
Continental Building Products
Divisions Management Group
F&N Goode
Flippdaddy’s
Graneworks Brewing Company
Grant Thornton LLP
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati

Hammers & Ales Cont.
Hatting Supermarket
HR Elements
Jeff & Katie Brogan
Ladder 19
MadTree Brewing Company
Mazunte
Modern Office Methods
Music MAN DJ Flyin’
Brian Hellmann
RelaDyne
Sugarhound Confections
The Home Depot
The Kleingers Group
Towne Properties
Urban Artifact
WCPO - 9 on Your Side
WingStop Cincinnati
Yust Gallery

In-kind Donations
Alpine Valley Water
Cincinnati Electrical Repair
Crossroads Church
Donald Griffith
Mary Ellen Huss
Monti Inc.
Outdoor Adventure Clubs of Greater Cincinnati, Inc.
P&G
Pro Bono Partnership of Ohio
Scott Lawley
ToolBank USA

Individual Donations
Gold Hammer Level $1,000+
Stephan & Michelle Burch
John & Jackie Hausfeld
Dennis & Teresa Loje
Jim and Jane Neyer Family Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Mark Seiter

Individual Donations
Silver Drill Level $500 - $1,000
Doug Adams
Doug & Mariela Brauch
Manilyn Kinne
Jim & Sheila Lamar
Jeremy Michael
Rob Michel
Mike Schneider & Barbara Webb
Paul & Shelagh Stautberg
Nate Strahm

Individual Donations
Bronze Ladder Level $100 - $500
Marissa & Damany Abernathy
Jeff & Katie Brogan
Mark Bruner
Gary & Jackie Bryson
Kristy & Jay Conlin
Conrad Culbertson
Anthony D’Agostino
Janie Dvorak Elliott
Richard Finn
Chad Gagnon
Mary Beth Lawson
Robb & Molly Lawson
Tom & Mary Beth Lawson
Lisa McClain
Thomas W. Mclvory
Donna Michel
Mike & Jordan Nauman
Kat Pepmeyer
Robert Ramsay
Mandi Rassel
Linda Rassell
Ryan & Katie Reckman
Bob Rigling
Patricia Russart
Allison Steiertz
Rich Wagner

Individual Donations
Super Supporters $50-$99
Joel Beeby
Lora Black
Micaela Castele
Sarah DeSouza
Kathleen Fraiz
Kathy Fraiz
Doug Hammond
Robyn Hatton
Julie Italiano
Cheryl Lawson
Terri Loyd
Jim Meyer
Jared Moore
David Okun
Doug Rassel
Wayne Rassel
Penny Sadler
Charles Stevens
Elizabeth J. Winters Waite

Other Support
Best Buy Foundation
Dancing with Your Heart
Enthusiast Auto
Kroger
Liberty Mutual